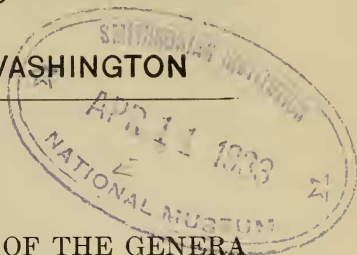


PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



NEW OPISTHOGLYPHOUS SNAKES OF THE GENERA  
CROTAPHOPELTIS AND TRIMERORHINUS  
FROM ANGOLA AND KENYA COLONY.

BY ARTHUR LOVERIDGE.

In a collection of reptiles and amphibians from Angola, received as an exchange from the University of Alberta, is a snake which I am unable to identify with any known African species. There seems to be no reason to doubt the validity of its data for the score of species represented in the collection were all well known Angolan forms.

Unfortunately, though the body is in perfect condition, the head seems to have been stamped upon, the mouth was caked with sand and the teeth badly broken. After restoration, however, it appears to be an opisthoglyph and, if one ignores the teeth, is in complete agreement with the definition of *Leptodeira* Günther as set forth by Boulenger (1896, Cat. Lizards Brit. Mus., 3, p. 89) from which genus the African species have been separated under the name *Crotaphopeltis* Jan.

As it is not conspecific with *hotamboeia* or any of the recently described *Leptodeira*, *Crotaphopeltis* or allied genera such as *Tarbophis*, in appreciation of the assistance rendered by Mr. Benjamin Shreve, an honorary worker in the herpetological department of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, it may be known as

*Crotaphopeltis shrevei*, sp. nov.

*Type*.—Museum of Comparative Zoology, No. 32,471. An adult ♂ from Missao de Dondi, Bella Vista, via. Lobito, Angola, collected by Mr. Kenneth H. Prior in 1931.

*Diagnosis*.—An arboreal species with anal entire, an exceptionally long tail, and a high ventral count. Somewhat intermediate between *C. h. hotamboeia* (Laurenti) and *C. duchesnii* (Boulenger) but not closely related

to either; differing from the former in its more numerous subcaudals, from the latter in the shape of its head and the less slender anterior portion of its body.

*Description*.—Rostral once and a half as broad as deep, scarcely visible from above; internasals much shorter than the prefrontals; frontal as long as broad, as long as its distance from the end of the snout, shorter than the parietals; loreal as long as deep; one preocular; two postoculars; temporals 1+2; eight upper labials, third, fourth and fifth entering the orbit; two well developed pairs of chin shields, the anterior twice as long as broad, yet broader than the second, and in contact with five lower labials; following the well developed chin shields are two pairs of less differentiated shields which may be considered as chin shields also. Scales smooth in 19 rows at midbody, 23 on neck at a distance of ten scales behind the parietals, 15 posteriorly at a point ten scales in advance of the anal. Ventrals somewhat angularly bent laterally 203; anal entire; subcaudals 81.

*Color in alcohol*.—Above, uniformly blue-black (greenish in life?). Below, lower labials dusky, throat and centre of ventrals on anterior portion of body white, the dorsal coloring impinging on the outer border of the ventrals progressively till the white of the median area is obscured posteriorly and the subcaudals are uniformly plumbeous, being but slightly paler than the dorsal aspect of the tail.

*Measurements*.—Total length 930 mm.; head and body 740 mm.; tail 190 mm.

Having recently examined over ninety examples of the snake known to South Africans as the Striped Schaapstecker, I find that those from the northern part of its range may be differentiated from the typical form by the higher ventral count shown by the forty-three northerly snakes. For this northern race, therefore, I propose the name of

***Trimerorhinus tritaeniatus multisquamis*, subsp. nov.**

*Psammophis brevirostris* Loveridge (non Peters), 1916, Journ. East Africa & Uganda Nat. Hist. Soc., 10, pp. 80, 85, 86: Kenya Colony localities.

*Trimerorhinus tritaeniatus* Loveridge (non Günther), 1923, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 882: Nairobi and Arusha. Loveridge, 1929, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 151, p. 31: Kenya Colony localities.

*Type*.—Museum of Comparative Zoology, No. 18,213. A ♀ from Nairobi, Kenya Colony, collected by Arthur Loveridge, August 21st, 1915.

*Paratypes*.—Museum of Comparative Zoology, No. 17,976 from the Loita Plains, Kenya Colony, collected by C. P. Curtis, Jr., in 1923, also eight specimens from Kenya Colony in the Coryndon Memorial Museum, Nairobi as listed in the 1916 citation given above; twenty-two specimens from Kenya Colony in the United States National Museum as listed in the 1929 citation; seven specimens from Kenya Colony and Abyssinia in the Field Museum of Natural History as referred to in a report on their African collections (still in manuscript); three specimens from Kenya Colony and Mpwapwa, Tanganyika Territory referred to *T. tritaeniatus* by Boulenger, 1896, Catalogue Snakes British Museum, 3, p. 140.

*Diagnosis.*—Differs from the typical form in its more numerous ventral scales which may be contrasted thus:

Ventrals 145 to 163<sup>1</sup>; subcaudals 51 to 65 (based on 55 specimens).

Range—Africa south of the Central Railway of Tanganyika

Territory.....*T. t. tritaeniatus*

Ventrals 162 to 183; subcaudals 54 to 66 (based on 43 specimens).

Range—East Africa north of the Central Railway of Tanganyika

Territory.....*T. t. multisquamis*

*Description.*—Midbody scale-rows 17; ventrals 167; anal divided; subcaudals 57; labials 8, the fourth and fifth entering the orbit.

*Measurements.*—Type ♀. Head and body 660 mm., tail 144 mm.

*Distribution.*—Making the Central Railway of Tanganyika (which connects Kigoma on Lake Tanganyika with Dar es Salaam on the Indian Ocean) the dividing line is not so arbitrary as may appear at first sight for the railway was surveyed on relatively lower ground avoiding mountains while in the tropics the Striped Schaapsteker is a snake of the highlands. The most southerly record for the northern race is Mpwapwa, about ten miles north of Gulwe Station. The most northerly record for the southern form is a hundred miles south of the track in the Iringa highlands.

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<sup>1</sup>Günther's counts of 157–169 for the types of *T. variabilis* are erroneous and should read 155–159. I am obliged to Mr. H. W. Parker for this information.